

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD March 25, 2018

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR:

Amenia	Mon.	Mar. 26	8:00 am	Annie Marie & Patrick Fay
“	Tues.	Mar. 27	8:00 am	Vincent Barnwell
“	Wed.	Mar. 28	8:00 am	Michael Stack
“	Thurs.	Mar. 29	8:00 am	NO MASS
Amenia	“	“	7:30 pm	People of the Parish (Holy Thursday)
“	Fri.	Mar. 30	8:00 am	NO MASS
Pine Plains	“	“	12 noon	NO MASS
“	“	“	3:00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion (Good Friday)
Amenia	Sat.	Mar. 31	8:00 am	NO MASS
“	“	“	4:30 pm	NO MASS
Amenia	Sat.	Mar. 31	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil (Special Intention)
Pine Plains	Sun	April 1	8:00 am	Special Intention
Amenia	“	“	10:45 am	People of the Parish

“NOTES”

Dear Friends:

I would like to ask you to be as generous as you can in your gift to our Parish for Easter Sunday. We always need your help and support, as our commitments continue to call for a response. Just for example, a fuse box in St. Anthony's Church stopped functioning, and had to be replaced. It was a very complicated operation, and the bill was 2,600 dollars. It might sound like a small problem, but it was a big and very important job. That's just one example of the many bills we face on a daily basis. Again, please be as generous as you can this Easter. I thank you in advance.

I want to encourage you to attend as many of our Holy Week liturgies as you can. The night of reconciliation, on Monday, March 26th, we will have confessions at Amenia from 5 pm to 8 pm. Then we have the Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 29th. We have the Good Friday liturgy at 3 pm on March 30th in Pine Plains. Then we have the Easter Vigil at 8 pm on March 31st in Amenia (there is no 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday).

The Easter Sunday Masses will be the usual times: 8 am in Pine Plains and 10:45 am in Amenia. I hope you can make as many celebrations as you can.

I recently came across some very disturbing information in regards to our disabled brothers and sisters. Many of you are aware of children born with Down's Syndrome, a birth disability that affects a child's mental and physical development. What is happening now is that parents are, through prenatal screening, able to detect the syndrome before birth. This pre-natal information then often results in the abortion of the fetus.

In the country of Iceland, the rate of aborting these Down's Syndrome fetuses has reached 100%. Three Down's Syndrome babies were born in Iceland in 2009. In Britain 90 percent of women who have learned that their child has Down's Syndrome will have them aborted. America's rate is 67% (1995-2011). This disturbing situation is even more upsetting since there are more opportunities for Down's Syndrome children now to enjoy a fulfilling life. Please join me in prayer this Easter for a world that is ready to care for all human beings who are less fortunate than us.

Fr. Wilson

RECONCILIATION MONDAY - In preparation for Easter, Reconciliation will be offered on Monday, March 26, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN AMENIA - Fr. Wilson will be conducting the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 30, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - To all Vacation Bible School Volunteers and those who want to volunteer for the Pine Plains Vacation Bible School: There is a meeting at 7:00 pm at the Church of the Regeneration in Pine Plains (16 Pine Street) on Tuesday, March 27.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH : Gerhard Herron, Margaret Wilcox, Janet Stiles, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Evelyn Bouffard, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Rudy Eschbach, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Helen McGhee, Mary Murphy Adamitis, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, Jeff Moissonnier, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Michael Kain, Susan Moody, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Jack Silvernale, Mike Butts and Mary Ann Mullen, Alan Carroll, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Eileen Murphy Ehlers, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Luz Pelkey, Averie Burke, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Mary Fitzgerald Roth, Kathryn Garzetta, Joseph Licurse, Barb King, Delora Brooks, June Heckelman, Baby Hans Pedersen, Teresa Pelkey, Renee & Al Cobuzzi, Joanne Balek, Frances Anello, Colton Culligan, Irene Smith, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Robert Bartolomeo, Helen Murphy Riley, Linda Mary Dick and Leela Niranjan.

EASTER DUTY OBLIGATIONS - After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK - This week we have the great privilege of standing with Jesus as He undergoes His passion. On Holy Thursday, we join Jesus at table and as He washes His apostles' feet, institutes the priesthood, and offers the First Eucharist. On Good Friday, we can accompany Him along the way of the cross and stand by Him on Calvary. At the Easter Vigil, we can celebrate His victory over death as we light a new fire. Come join us this Holy Week as we celebrate each liturgy with love and gratitude.

"Jesus, thank you for enduring so much just to win our salvation. Help me to stand with you all week long."

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

<u>Reconciliation Monday</u>	March 26	Confessions from 5 pm to 8 pm	Amenia
<u>Holy Thursday</u>	March 29	7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration for one hour afterwards	Amenia
<u>Good Friday</u>	March 30	3:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross	Pine Plains Amenia
<u>Holy Saturday</u>	March 31	8:00 pm Easter Vigil This Mass is approx. 1-1/2 hrs.	Amenia
<u>Easter Sunday</u>	April 1	8:00 am Mass 10:45 am Mass	Pine Plains Amenia

As there will be larger crowds at many of these Masses, I ask for patience and understanding.

PALM SUNDAY - Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, The beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before He was crucified. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are a widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

A GOOD TIME - Approximately 75 people gathered in our gym last Sunday afternoon for St. Patrick's "Pot Luck" and "Bake Sale." We shared some great food, listened to wonderful Irish music provided by Jim Devine and enjoyed each other's company. I want to especially thank all the bakers, cooks and volunteers who made this day a success. We netted \$364.50 from the Bake Sale and \$167.00 from the 50/50. A special thanks to Matthew Leach and James Syversen for their presentation on the Life of St. Patrick. Good job boys!

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Last weekend, March 17-18, 2018, we collected \$4,330.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection, \$1,345.86 for Utility and Energy. I thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families.

*The Sanctuary Light which will burn this week
at Immaculate Conception Church
was donated by Larry, Mary and Laurie Hardisty
In Loving Memory of Eileen Strauss*